

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Representative Greene: State Completes Route 8 Safety Study**



(Hartford, CT) State Representative Len Greene (R-105) today announced the State Department of Transportation (DOT) has completed a safety study on a dangerous section of Route 8 southbound in Beacon Falls. Since early 2003, there have been four major truck accidents between exits 24 and 25.

Rep. Greene said the DOT began the study in January 2004. According to the DOT, accident data revealed a concentration of wet pavement accidents in the area. A skid test revealed marginal skid resistance. As a result of the test, the DOT installed signs warning of slippery when wet conditions. Truck rollover warning signs were also installed. In August 2004, at Rep. Greene's request, the Department of Public Safety agreed to immediately assign additional state troopers to monitor traffic on regular basis because excessive speed was likely a factor in a number of the accidents.

In December 2004, DOT relocated and increased the width of the southbound shoulder markings to improve the ability of vehicles traveling the right hand lane to remain on the superelevated portion of the pavement. Chevron warning signs were also replaced with larger signs to improve motorists' awareness of the approaching roadway.

Rep. Greene said DOT officials have stated their study concludes there is a need for further roadway improvements. Proposed improvement upgrades would include repaving sections of the highway, additional shoulder improvements, guide rail upgrades and median barrier replacement. Due to an estimated \$14 million cost, the project has been placed on DOT's future needs list. As an interim measure, DOT will apply a 'Nova Chip' surface treatment on the section of roadway to improve traction under wet conditions. The treatment application is expected to be completed this fall.

"The completion of the safety study is certainly a positive development," said Representative Greene. "It spells out exactly what improvements must be made to make the roadway safer and reduce the kind of accidents that have plagued the area in recent years. DOT staff has been very cooperative in working with myself and town officials to address the problem. I'm hopeful we can continue work together with the federal government to help secure the funding needed to reconstruct this section of highway as quickly as possible."

